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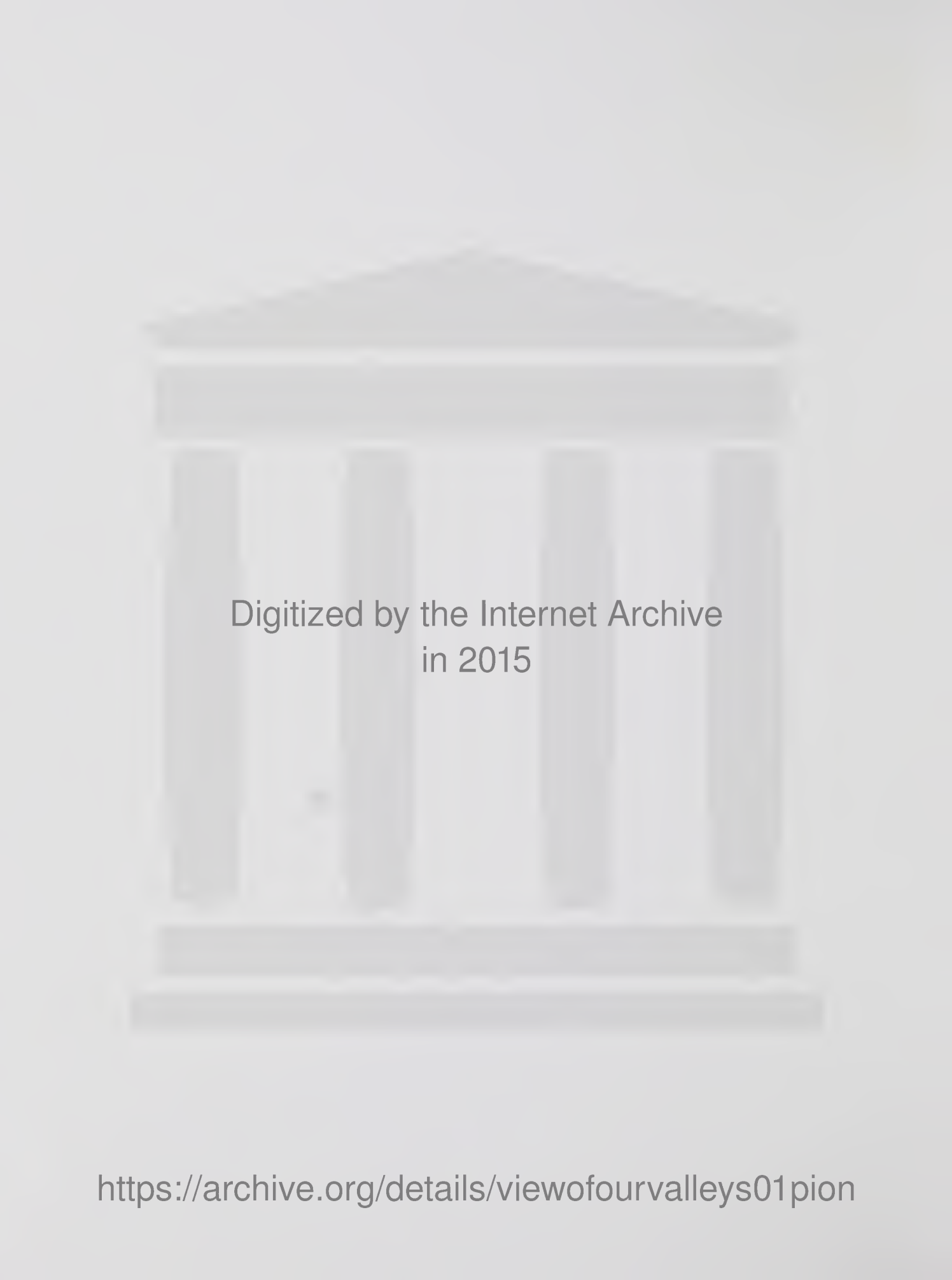
PIONEER VALLEY PLANNING COMMISSION 1993

POPULATION

A View OF OUR Valley

A STATISTICAL LOOK AT THE PIONEER VALLEY REGION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[v.1]

POPULATION
MARKET TRENDS
EMPLOYMENT & INCOME
TRANSPORTATION

THIS REPORT WAS FINANCED BY THE
MASSACHUSETTS HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT
AND THE FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION,
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

A View OF OUR Valley

A STATISTICAL LOOK AT THE
PIONEER VALLEY REGION

1993

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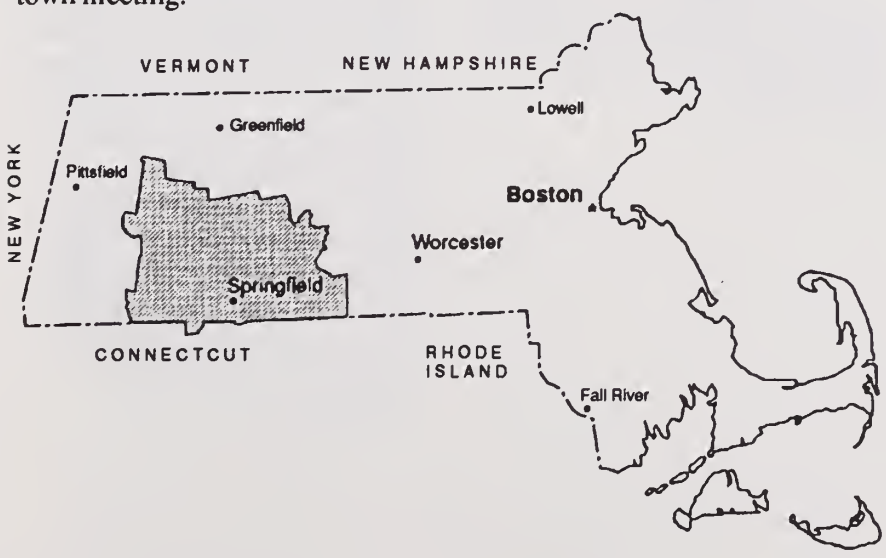
Introduction

The Pioneer Valley Region

This publication is one in a four-part series of statistical guides to the Pioneer Valley Region of Western Massachusetts. The Pioneer Valley Region encompasses the forty-three communities of both Hampden and Hampshire Counties. It is located in the midwestern section of Massachusetts, and, as home to 602,878 residents, represents the fourth largest metropolitan area in New England. The region covers approximately 1200 square miles, roughly the same size as Rhode Island. The six cities in the region have a mayoral form of government while the thirty-seven towns are governed by town meeting.

The area is unique within the Commonwealth of Massachusetts offering a diverse economic base, internationally known educational institutions and unparalleled scenic beauty. The Connecticut River with its fertile agricultural valley and the surrounding foothills of the Berkshire Mountains provide premier natural resources.

Choices in lifestyles range from contemporary downtown living to stately historic homes. Quality living is available in urban, rural or suburban communities.



Springfield, the third largest city in Massachusetts, is the region's cultural and economic center. The cities of Holyoke and Chicopee were the first planned industrial communities in the nation. A variety of international companies have their headquarters or major plants in the region, including Milton Bradley, Monsanto Chemical Company, Massachusetts Mutual Life Insurance Company and Stanhome, Inc.

Often referred to as the "Crossroads of New England," the Pioneer Valley Region is located at the interchange of the Massachusetts Turnpike and Interstate 91. Domestic and international air travel is available in less than a one-half hour drive from Springfield at Bradley International Airport in Connecticut. Passenger rail service is available through Amtrack with a station in the city of Springfield.

Significant tourist attractions include the Basketball Hall of Fame, the Volleyball Hall of Fame, Mount Tom Ski Area, the Eastern States Expositions and the picturesque college communities of Amherst, Northampton and South Hadley.

About This Report

This report is the third statistical guide published by the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission since 1977. It includes information about employment trends, population characteristics, transportation and other socioeconomic characteristics. Much of this data is used by the Commission for regional planning activities. It also provides a general reference and resource for individuals or organizations seeking information about the region and its cities and towns.

A View of Our Valley consists of four major sections. Each section is published individually and is available as a separate report. Collectively, the entire publication offers a comprehensive view of the Pioneer Valley Region.

Population
Presents demographic information

Market Trends
Examines residential real estate, commercial real estate and retail trends

Employment and Income
Contains data on employment, wage rates and income

Transportation
Describes passenger and freight transportation services and infrastructure

Previous base data reports were published by the Commission in 1977 and 1984. In updating and preparing this release of the report, information from the 1990 census and other current sources have been incorporated. Every effort has been made to provide data from a common denominator basis of 1990. While some sources are dated 1989, this information is usually taken from the 1990 Census. In answering questions for the 1990 Census, the point of reference for some answers was the previous year of 1989. For these questions, 1989 becomes the most recent information available. In some instances, direct parallels between this report and the two early publications were not possible; comparable information was not always available. Within this publication, two sets of data with common labels may come from differing sources and therefore may not be comparable. Every effort has been made to state the specific sources and to indicate any aspects of the data which may require caution when interpreting.

The information contained in these publications may be useful in a variety of applications:

- Environmental Planning
- Economic and Community Development
- Growth Assessment
- Market Research
- Grant Preparation

In addition to planning boards, the following individuals or groups may find the information valuable:

- Citizen Groups
- Educational Institutions
- Businesses
- Chambers of Commerce
- Real Estate Developers
- Social Service Agencies
- Government Agencies and Officials

The major source of information used throughout this report comes from the United States Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census. Other sources include the Massachusetts Institute for Social and Economic Research and surveys conducted by the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission.

The Pioneer Valley Planning Commission offers additional information and publications for these topics and other areas not covered in the report. Customized research and analytical services are also available. For more information, call the Commission's Regional Data Center at (413) 781-6045.

Characteristics

Overall Population Trends

The population of the Pioneer Valley Region increased 3.6% between 1980 and 1990. This compares to a 4.9% increase for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, 7.0% for New England, and 8.2% for the United States.

Statistics from the 1990 U.S. Decennial Census indicate that among the Region's 43 communities, the City of Springfield gained the greatest number of people (4,664), growing by 3.1%. This increase follows two decades of population loss for the region's central city. Only four of the region's communities experienced a slight loss in population between 1980 and 1990. For the region as a whole, however, the population remained relatively constant, neither increasing nor decreasing significantly.

Figure 1 – POPULATION CHANGE 1980-1990

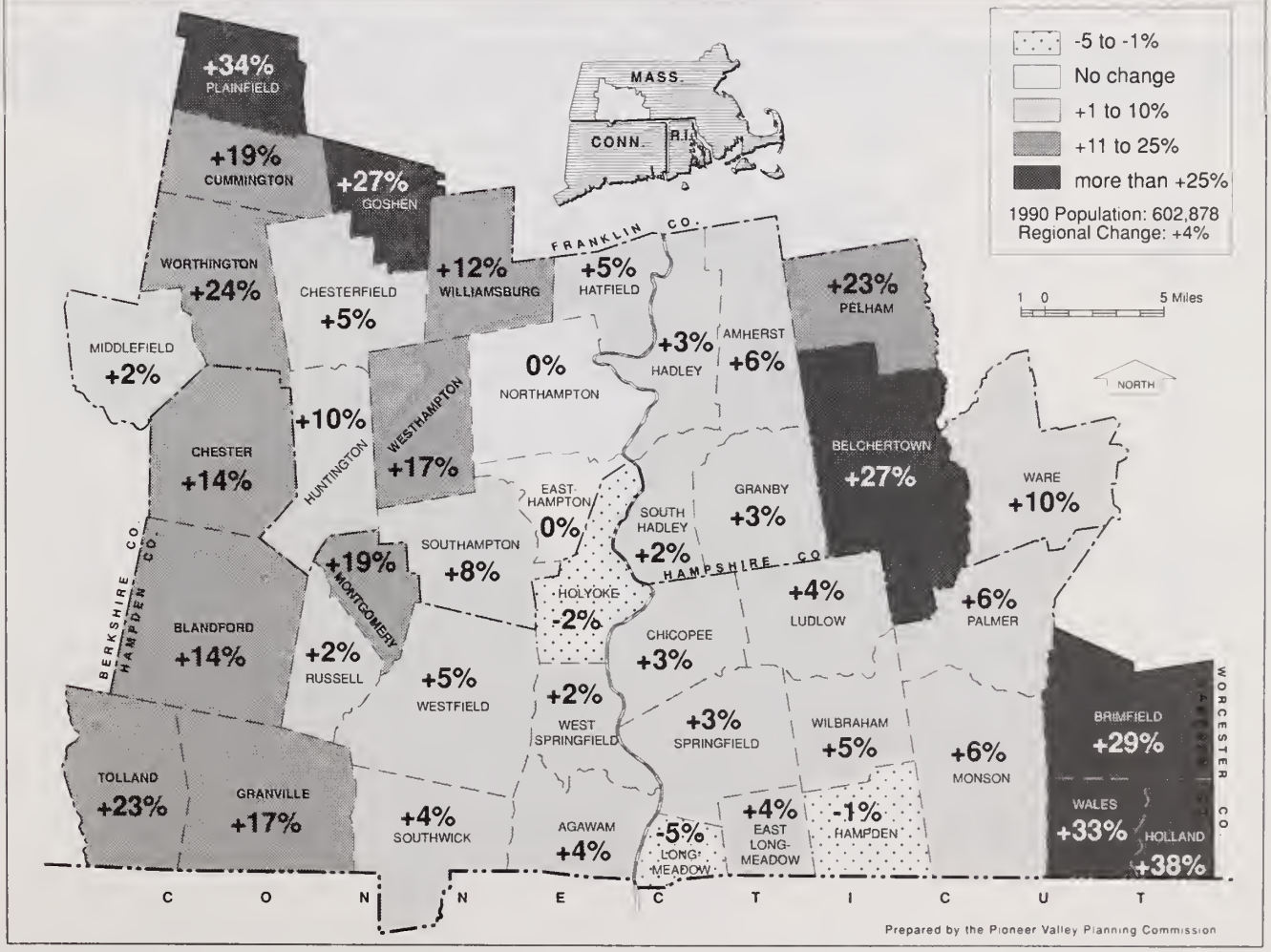
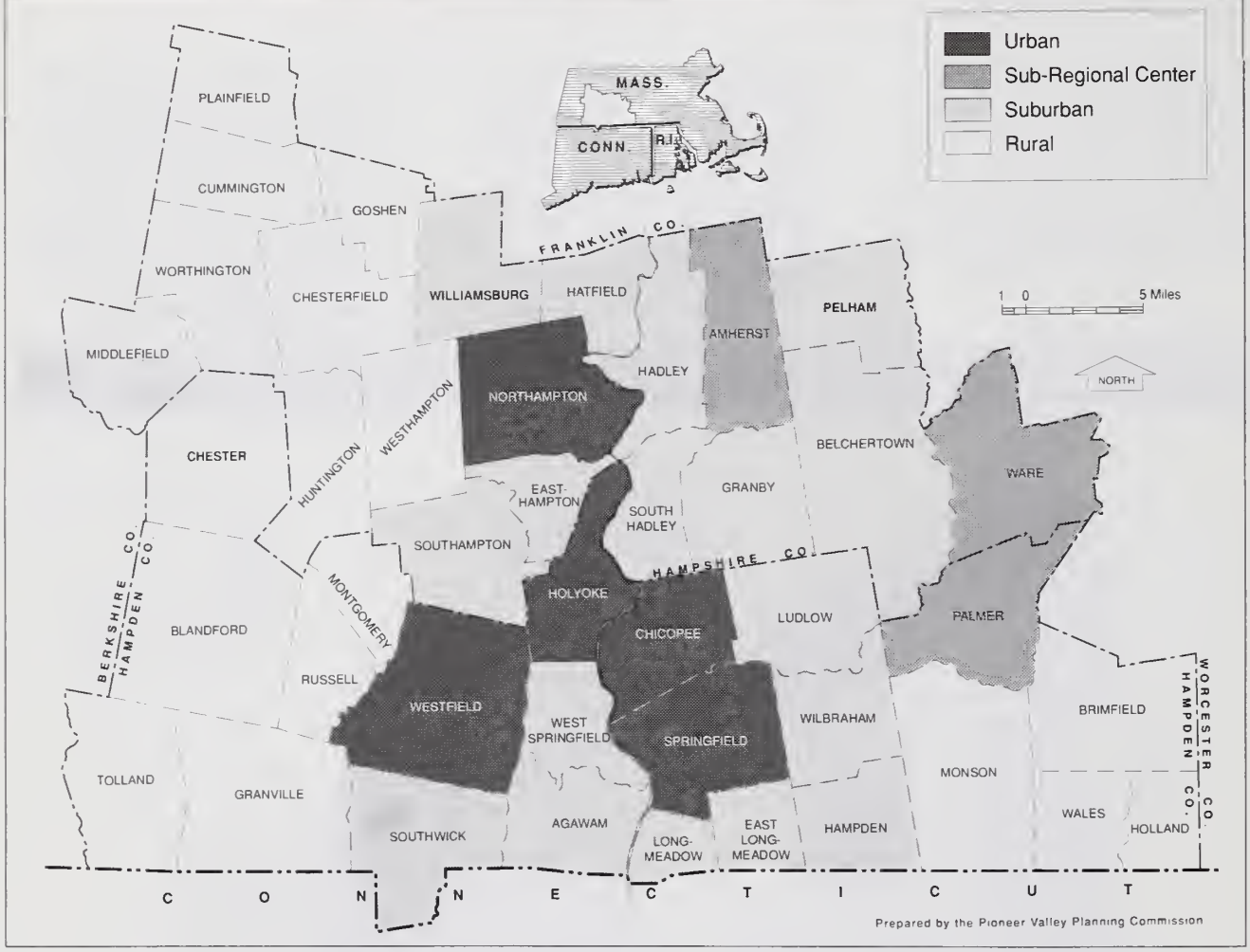


Figure 2 – SUB-REGIONAL DESIGNATIONS



Source: Pioneer Valley Planning Commission

Even though the region's central cities experienced a small rate of increase between 1980 and 1990, the urbanized area continues to house well over half of the region's total population. Over time, however, historical development patterns changed and the region's residents moved further from the urban core communities which border the central river valley. In 1950, 78.6% of the region's residents lived in communities that are located along the Connecticut River. Today, that number is down to 65.8% as development continues to expand in suburban and rural communities.

In the 1950's, suburban communities experienced unmatched rates of growth. In the 1980's, however, the highest rates of growth were found at the edges of the classic suburbs in the region's rural communities. Fourteen of the region's 18 rural communities experienced double-digit rates of growth between 1980 and 1990.

Table 1 – POPULATION CHANGE IN THE PIONEER VALLEY REGION

	1960	1970	Change	1980	Change	1990	Change
Urban	345,065	341,790	- 3,275 -9%	317,860	- 23,930 -7%	324,980	7,120 2.2%
Subregional Centers	31,593	46,198	14,605 46.2%	53,571	7,373 16%	57,090	3,519 6.6%
Suburban	137,498	173,680	36,180 26.3%	185,203	11,523 6.6%	191,672	6,469 3.5%
Rural	18,426	21,363	2,937 15.9%	25,197	3,833 17.9%	29,136	3,939 15.6%
Pioneer Valley Region	**532,582**	**583,031**	**50,449 9.5%**	**581,831**	**- 1,200 -0.2%**	**602,878**	**21,047 3.6%**

Source: Pioneer Valley Planning Commission

Table 2 – POPULATION CHANGE 1950-1990 PIONEER VALLEY REGION

Community	Census Pop. 1950	Census Pop. 1960	Percent Change 1950-1960	Census Pop. 1970	Percent Change 1960-1970	Census Pop. 1980	Percent Change 1970-1980	Census Pop. 1990	Percent Change 1980-1990
Agawam	10,166	15,781	55.2	21,717	37.6	26,271	21.0	27,323	4.0
Amherst	10,856	13,781	26.9	26,331	91.1	33,229	26.2	35,228	6.0
Belchertown	4,487	5,186	15.6	5,936	14.5	8,339	40.5	10,579	26.9
Blandford	597	636	6.5	863	35.7	1,038	20.3	1,187	14.4
Brimfield	1,182	1,414	19.6	1,907	34.9	2,317	21.5	3,001	29.5
Chester	1,292	1,155	-10.6	1,025	-11.3	1,123	9.6	1,280	14.0
Chesterfield	496	556	12.1	704	26.6	1,000	42.0	1,048	4.8
Chicopee	49,211	61,553	25.1	66,676	8.3	55,112	-17.3	56,632	2.8
Cummington	620	550	-11.3	562	2.2	657	16.9	785	19.5
East Longmeadow	4,881	10,294	110.9	13,029	26.6	12,905	-1.0	13,367	3.6
Easthampton	10,694	12,326	15.3	13,012	5.6	15,580	19.7	15,537	-0.3
Goshen	321	385	19.9	483	25.5	651	34.8	830	27.5
Granby	1,816	4,221	132.4	5,473	29.7	5,380	-1.7	5,565	3.4
Granville	740	874	18.1	1,008	15.3	1,204	19.4	1,403	16.5
Hadley	2,639	3,099	17.4	3,750	21.0	4,125	10.0	4,231	2.6
Hampden	1,322	2,345	77.4	4,572	95.0	4,745	3.8	4,709	-0.8
Hatfield	2,179	2,350	7.8	2,825	20.2	3,045	7.8	3,184	4.6
Holland	377	561	48.8	931	66.0	1,589	70.7	2,185	37.5
Holyoke	54,661	52,689	-3.6	50,112	-4.9	44,678	-10.8	43,704	-2.2
Huntington	1,256	1,392	10.8	1,593	14.4	1,804	13.2	1,987	10.1
Longmeadow	6,508	10,565	62.3	15,630	47.9	16,301	4.3	15,467	-5.1
Ludlow	8,660	13,805	59.4	17,580	27.3	18,150	3.2	18,820	3.7
Middlefield	295	315	6.8	288	-8.6	385	33.7	392	1.8
Monson	6,125	6,712	9.6	7,355	9.6	7,315	-0.5	7,776	6.3
Montgomery	157	333	112.1	446	33.9	637	42.8	759	19.2
Northampton	29,603	30,058	1.5	29,664	-1.3	29,286	-1.3	29,289	0.0
Palmer	9,533	10,358	8.7	11,680	12.8	11,389	-2.5	12,054	5.8
Pelham	579	805	39.0	937	16.4	1,112	18.7	1,373	23.5
Plainfield	228	237	3.9	287	21.1	425	48.1	571	34.4
Russell	1,298	1,366	5.2	1,382	1.2	1,570	13.6	1,594	1.5
South Hadley	10,145	14,956	47.4	17,033	13.9	16,399	-3.7	16,685	1.7
Southampton	1,387	2,192	58.0	3,069	40.0	4,137	34.8	4,478	8.2
Southwick	2,855	5,139	80.0	6,330	23.2	7,382	16.6	7,667	3.9
Springfield	162,399	174,463	7.4	163,905	-6.1	152,319	-7.1	156,983	3.1
Tolland	107	101	-5.6	172	70.3	235	36.6	289	23.0
Wales	497	659	32.6	852	29.3	1,177	38.1	1,566	33.1
Ware	7,517	7,517	0.0	8,187	8.9	8,953	9.4	9,808	9.5
West Springfield	20,438	24,924	21.9	28,461	14.2	27,042	-5.0	27,537	1.8
Westfield	20,962	26,302	25.5	31,433	19.5	36,465	16.0	38,372	5.2
Westhampton	452	583	29.0	793	36.0	1,137	43.4	1,327	16.7
Wilbraham	4,003	7,387	84.5	11,984	62.2	12,053	0.6	12,635	4.8
Williamsburg	2,056	2,186	6.3	2,342	7.1	2,237	-4.5	2,515	12.4
Worthington	462	597	29.2	712	19.3	932	30.9	1,156	24.0
Pioneer Valley	**456,059**	**532,708**	**16.8**	**583,031**	**9.4**	**581,830**	**0.2**	**602,878**	**3.6**
Massachusetts				**5,689,170**		**5,737,037**	**0.8**	**6,016,425**	**4.9**
United States				**203,221,926**		**226,504,825**	**11.5**	**248,709,873**	**9.8**

Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census

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Age Characteristics

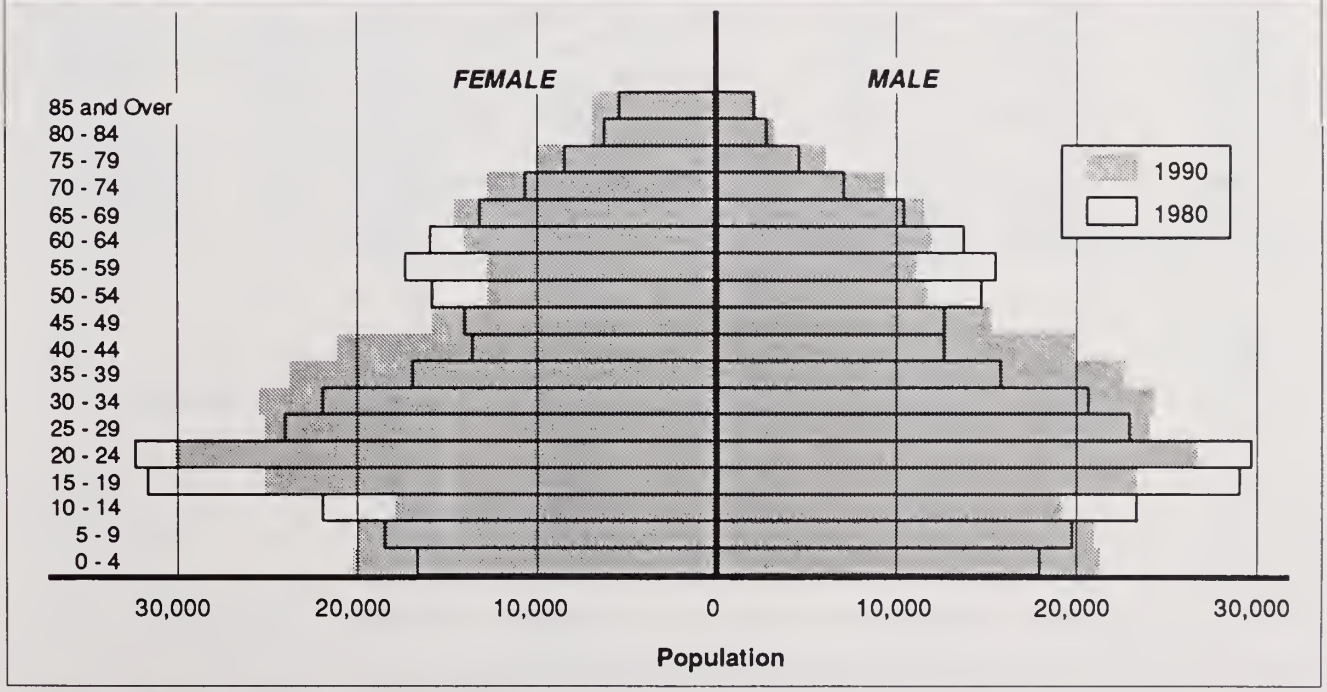
Between 1980 and 1990, the median age of residents in all but 4 of the region's communities increased. Rates of change in the median ages range from a slight decrease of .5% in Amherst, a reflection of the significant student population, to an increase of 18.4% in Hampden. The population in the Town of Hampden, like so many bedroom communities has a growing senior population, while at the same time, Baby Boomers are getting older.

Some of the region's more rural communities experienced an even higher rate of increase in median age.

Between 1980 and 1990 the number of children under the age of 15 increased by a slight 1.3% or 1,641 children. This is a dramatic change from the previous decade when the number of children under age 15 decreased by 25%.

Females aged 70 and over increased by 19% or 5,938 people while males of the same age increased 25% or 4,196 people. The number of people aged 65 and over made up approximately 14% of the population in 1990 compared to approximately 12% in 1980. The number of people of this age group residing in group quarters has remained at approximately 1 person in 13 since 1970.

Figure 3 – AGE AND SEX DISTRIBUTION 1980/1990 PIONEER VALLEY REGION



Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census

Table 3 – REGIONAL AGE/SEX DISTRIBUTION

Age	Female		Male		Total	Percent
	1980	1990	1980	1990	1990	Change
0 - 4	16,705	20,439	17,972	21,239	41,678	6.91
5 - 9	18,494	20,071	19,716	21,033	41,104	6.82
10 - 14	22,066	17,901	23,392	19,304	37,205	6.17
15 - 19	31,678	25,151	29,028	23,421	48,572	8.06
20 - 24	32,400	29,977	29,675	26,743	56,720	9.41
25 - 29	24,121	25,223	23,005	24,082	49,305	8.18
30 - 34	21,938	25,508	20,727	24,314	49,822	8.26
35 - 39	16,944	23,731	15,796	22,646	46,377	7.69
40 - 44	13,661	21,252	12,640	20,029	41,281	6.85
45 - 49	14,130	16,040	12,708	15,456	31,496	5.22
50 - 54	16,016	12,819	14,773	11,809	24,628	4.09
55 - 59	17,444	12,816	15,504	11,296	24,112	4.00
60 - 64	16,073	14,016	13,647	12,128	26,144	4.34
65 - 69	13,285	14,724	10,441	11,725	26,449	4.39
70 - 74	10,795	12,894	7,163	9,421	22,315	3.70
75 - 79	8,630	10,091	4,715	6,046	16,137	2.68
80 - 84	6,150	7,182	2,796	3,249	10,431	1.73
85 +	5,555	6,901	2,047	2,201	9,102	1.51
Total	**306,085**	**316,736**	**275,745**	**286,142**	**602,878**	**100.00**

Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census

Table 4 – POPULATION PROFILE OF PEOPLE AGED 65

Municipality	Under 65			65 and Over		
	1980	1990	Percent Change	1980	1990	Percent Change
Amherst	31,823	33,432	5.1	1,406	1,796	27.7
Belchertown	7,640	9,520	24.6	699	1,059	51.5
Blandford	934	1,067	14.2	104	120	15.4
Brimfield	1,976	2,583	30.7	341	418	22.6
Chester	971	1,138	17.2	152	142	-6.6
Chesterfield	921	965	4.8	79	83	5.1
Chicopee	47,580	46,867	-1.5	7,532	9,765	29.6
Cummington	543	683	25.8	114	102	-10.5
East Longmeadow	11,259	10,921	-3.0	1,646	2,446	48.6
Easthampton	13,833	13,392	-3.2	1,747	2,145	22.8
Goshen	581	747	28.6	70	83	18.6
Granby	4,959	4,968	0.2	421	597	41.8
Granville	1,090	1,277	17.2	114	126	10.5
Hadley	3,619	3,463	-4.3	506	768	51.8
Hampden	4,332	4,158	-4.0	413	551	33.4
Hatfield	2,665	2,675	0.4	380	509	33.9
Holland	1,444	2,001	38.6	145	184	26.9
Holyoke	36,797	36,378	-1.1	7,881	7,326	-7.0
Huntington	1,646	1,772	7.7	158	215	36.1
Longmeadow	14,559	13,104	-10.0	1,742	2,363	35.6
Ludlow	16,359	16,071	-1.8	1,791	2,749	53.5
Middlefield	,339	350	3.2	46	42	-8.7
Monson	6,599	6,861	4.0	716	915	27.8
Montgomery	592	677	14.4	45	82	82.2
Northampton	25,189	25,023	-0.7	4,097	4,266	4.1
Palmer	9,786	10,064	2.8	1,603	1,990	24.1
Russell	1,423	1,441	1.3	147	153	4.1
Pelham	1,021	1,246	22.0	91	127	39.6
Plainfield	378	510	34.9	47	61	29.8
South Hadley	14,454	14,103	-2.4	1,945	2,582	32.8
Southampton	3,848	4,044	5.1	289	434	50.2
Southwick	6,888	6,933	0.7	494	734	48.6
Springfield	131,342	135,415	3.1	20,977	21,568	2.8
Tolland	204	254	24.5	31	35	12.9
Wales	1,080	1,450	34.3	97	116	19.6
Ware	7,682	8,227	7.1	1,271	1,581	24.4
West Springfield	23,461	23,253	-0.9	3,581	4,284	19.6
Westfield	32,282	33,059	2.4	4,183	5,313	27.0
Westhampton	1,049	1,221	16.4	88	106	20.5
Wilbraham	11,030	10,711	-2.9	1,023	1,924	88.1
Williamsburg	1,962	2,196	11.9	275	319	16.0
Worthington	835	1034	23.8	97	122	25.8
Pioneer Valley Region	**510,253**	**518,444**	**1.6**	**71,577**	**84,434**	**18.0**

Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census

TABLE 5 – MEDIAN AGE

Municipality	1980	1990	Change
Agawam	32.1	35.7	11.2
Amherst	21.7	21.6	-0.5
Belchertown	29.2	33.5	14.7
Blandford	32.0	35.9	12.2
Brimfield	33.2	35.9	8.1
Chester	34.1	33.4	-2.1
Chesterfield	29.3	33.9	15.7
Chicopee	33.3	35.1	5.4
Cummington	34.5	34.7	0.6
East Longmeadow	35.2	38.7	9.9
Easthampton	30.2	34.3	13.6
Goshen	31.1	35.2	13.2
Granby	29.9	34.7	16.1
Granville	30.5	34.1	11.8
Hadley	32.9	37.8	14.9
Hampden	31.5	37.3	18.4
Hatfield	34.1	38.1	11.7
Holland	29.9	32.3	8.0
Holyoke	32.6	31.5	-3.4
Huntington	28.5	32.9	15.4
Longmeadow	35.0	40.4	15.4
Ludlow	33.0	36.4	10.3
Middlefield	32.3	37.2	15.2
Monson	31.4	35.2	12.1
Montgomery	30.1	36.1	19.9
Northampton	30.2	33.5	10.9
Palmer	33.4	34.6	3.6
Pelham	32.1	35.8	11.5
Plainfield	30.2	35.5	17.5
Russell	28.8	32.7	13.5
South Hadley	30.3	33.8	11.6
Southampton	29.5	35.2	19.3
Southwick	28.0	33.0	17.9
Springfield	29.9	30.6	2.3
Tolland	36.6	37.4	2.2
Wales	28.8	31.4	9.0
Ware	33.9	33.9	0.0
West Springfield	33.4	35.8	7.2
Westfield	29.9	32.7	9.4
Westhampton	30.0	33.6	12.0
Wilbraham	34.4	39.3	14.
Williamsburg	31.9	35.8	12.2
Worthington	32.1	35.4	10.3

Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census

Ethnic and Racial Characteristics

The population in the Pioneer Valley Region is becoming more diverse in its racial and ethnic composition. In 1980, Blacks, Hispanics, American Indians, Asians and other minorities as defined by the U.S. Census Bureau comprised 10% of the total population. In 1990, these population groups made up 15% of the region's citizens and accounted for the region's population growth during the decade. Between 1980 and 1990, the non-hispanic white population decreased by 14,377 people or 2.7% while the Hispanic and minority population increased by 35,424 people or 60.5%. This rate of change mirrors the population dynamics occurring throughout Massachusetts. In addition, the median age of Blacks and Hispanics is approximately 20 years compared to 32 years for Whites.

Table 6 – 1990 POPULATION BY HISPANIC ORIGIN AND RACE

	Persons of Hispanic Origin						Persons Not of Hispanic Origin							
	White	Black	American Indian	Asian	Other	All Races	White	Black	American Indian	Asian	Other	All Races	All Persons	Percent Hispanic
Agawam	171	23	2	1	111	308	26,608	237	32	132	6	27,015	27,323	1.1%
Amherst	831	71	5	28	734	1,669	29,099	1,555	84	2,745	76	33,559	35,228	4.7%
Belchertown	71	1	1	1	21	95	10,308	54	7	102	13	10,484	10,579	0.9%
Blandford	12	0	0	0	1	13	1,171	0	3	0	0	1,174	1,187	1.1%
Brimfield	18	1	0	0	2	21	2,952	16	9	0	3	2,980	3,001	0.7%
Chester	2	0	0	0	7	9	1,265	0	3	3	0	1,271	1,280	0.7%
Chesterfield	1	0	0	0	0	1	1,039	3	4	1	0	1,047	1,048	0.1%
Chicopee	838	75	3	8	1,126	2,050	53,193	963	67	319	40	54,582	56,632	3.6%
Cummington	3	0	0	0	0	3	777	0	4	1	0	782	785	0.4%
East Longmeadow	41	5	0	1	14	61	13,169	69	12	55	1	13,306	13,367	0.5%
Easthampton	148	5	1	12	107	273	15,080	51	15	116	2	15,264	15,537	1.8%
Goshen	1	0	0	0	0	1	826	0	3	0	0	829	830	0.1%
Granby	53	2	0	0	12	67	5,444	13	11	30	0	5,498	5,565	1.2%
Granville	3	0	0	0	0	3	1,391	4	1	4	0	1,400	1,403	0.2%
Hadley	14	0	0	1	9	24	4,114	16	2	74	1	4,207	4,231	0.6%
Hampden	17	0	0	0	7	24	4,649	17	4	15	0	4,685	4,709	0.5%
Hatfield	22	0	0	0	5	27	3,131	6	4	15	1	3,157	3,184	0.8%
Holland	20	0	1	0	1	22	2,139	6	9	8	1	2,163	2,185	1.0%
Holyoke	3,419	426	27	42	9,659	13,573	28,519	1,145	77	314	76	30,131	43,704	31.1%
Huntington	26	0	0	0	6	32	1,945	1	3	6	0	1,955	1,987	1.6%
Longmeadow	90	2	0	0	15	107	14,835	121	9	381	14	15,360	15,467	0.7%
Ludlow	348	1	0	0	31	380	18,268	37	16	111	8	18,440	18,820	2.0%
Middlefield	0	0	0	0	1	1	389	0	0	2	0	391	392	0.3%
Monson	36	5	3	0	7	51	7,651	40	10	16	8	7,725	7,776	0.7%
Montgomery	2	0	0	0	0	2	752	0	3	2	0	757	759	0.3%
Northampton	538	32	6	21	604	1,201	26,693	490	49	827	29	28,088	29,289	4.1%
Palmer	45	2	1	0	24	72	11,819	88	30	43	2	11,982	12,054	0.6%
Pelham	22	5	0	1	5	33	1,308	14	1	11	6	1,340	1,373	2.4%
Plainfield	6	0	0	0	0	6	564	0	1	0	0	565	571	1.1%
Russell	5	0	0	0	0	5	1,573	6	5	1	4	1,589	1,594	0.3%
South Hadley	128	6	0	8	68	210	15,884	171	15	392	13	16,475	16,685	1.3%
Southampton	20	0	0	1	22	43	4,397	17	8	13	0	4,435	4,478	1.0%
Southwick	54	0	2	0	18	74	7,517	38	13	19	6	7,593	7,667	1.0%
Springfield	7,757	1,580	68	105	17,018	26,528	99,869	28,484	265	1,531	306	130,455	156,983	16.9%
Tolland	1	0	0	0	0	1	285	2	1	0	0	288	289	0.3%
Wales	2	0	0	0	0	2	1,530	22	9	3	0	1,564	1,566	0.1%
Ware	107	0	0	0	38	145	9,549	26	33	51	4	9,663	9,808	1.5%
West Springfield	417	39	3	12	343	814	26,022	343	49	297	12	26,723	27,537	3.0%
Westfield	995	24	6	11	528	1,564	36,046	313	38	286	125	36,808	38,372	4.1%
Westhampton	0	0	0	0	4	4	1,318	0	4	1	0	1,323	1,327	0.3%
Wilbraham	86	1	0	1	13	101	12,203	154	3	165	9	12,534	12,635	0.8%
Williamsburg	20	1	0	3	2	26	2,461	9	6	11	2	2,489	2,515	1.0%
Worthington	23	1	0	0	2	26	1,125	2	0	3	0	1,130	1,156	2.2%
Pioneer Valley Region	**16,413**	**2,308**	**129**	**257**	**30,565**	**49,672**	**508,877**	**34,533**	**922**	**8,106**	**768**	**553,206**	**602,878**	**8.2%**

Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census

Projections

Within the Pioneer Valley region, as throughout the United States, the decade of the 1950's brought to a close high birth rates which resulted in today's largest population segment commonly referred to as Baby Boomers. The high rates of birth which began in the post war era resulted in a 16.7% increase in the region's population between 1950 and 1960. During the 1960's, the region's rate of population increase had slowed to 9.4%.

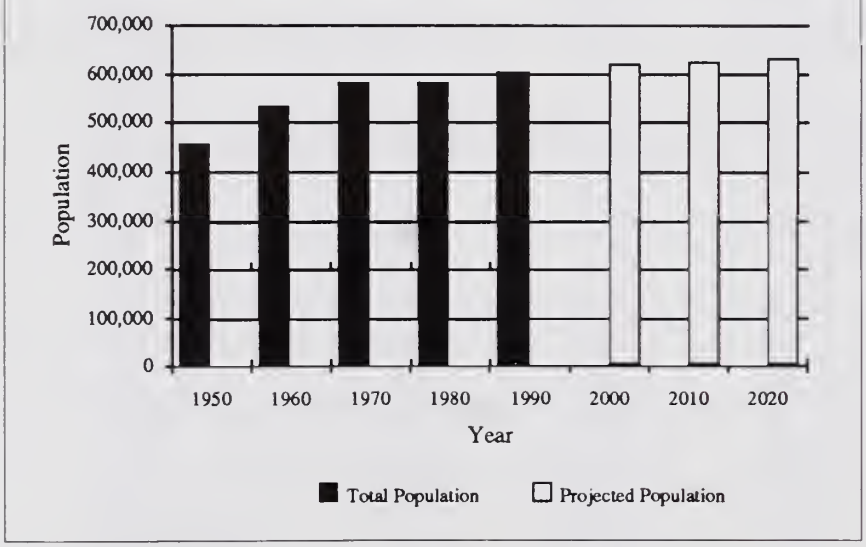
Subsequently, between 1970 and 1980, the region's population remained virtually unchanged with a small decrease of 0.2%. This modest rate of population growth is projected to continue through the year 2020.

The projected rates of changes are smaller than those experienced during the 1980's, with an increase of 2.6% from 1990 to 2000, 0.7% from 2000 to 2010, and 1.2% from 2010 to 2020. This rate of growth is due to relatively low birth rates which are expected to continue into the future as well as a lack of substantial in-migration.

In addition, the region's population will be older. The estimated median age of the region's population increased from 28.1 years in 1970 to 32.7 years in 1990. By 2020, the median age of residents in the Pioneer Valley Region is expected to be approximately 37.2 years.

By the year 2000, the number of people who fall within four of the ten age groups under age 45 will show decreases in population. Six of the nine age groups over 45 will increase with marked gains in the number of people aged 45-59. By 2020, the shift of the population into the older age groups is more pronounced. Among people within the ten age groups under aged 45, seven will decrease while the number of people over age 45 will increase substantially.

Figure 4 – TOTAL POPULATION FOR THE PIONEER VALLEY 1950–2020



Source: Pioneer Valley Planning Commission Population Projections 2/92

Table 7 – PROJECTED POPULATION CHANGE 1990 - 2020 BY COMMUNITY

Community	Census Population 1990	Projected Population 2000	Percent Change 1990-2000	Projected Pop. 2010	Percent Change 2000-2010	Projected Pop. 2020	Percent Change 2010-2020
Agawam	27,323	28,704	5.1	28,663	-0.1	28,401	-0.9
Amherst	35,228	37,130	5.4	40,066	7.9	44,154	10.2
Belchertown	10,579	12,794	20.9	15,172	18.6	18,073	19.1
Blandford	1,187	1,344	13.2	1,457	8.5	1,543	5.9
Brimfield	3,001	3,742	24.7	4,453	19.0	5,460	22.6
Chester	1,280	1,495	16.8	1,619	8.2	1,836	13.4
Chesterfield	1,048	1,135	8.3	1,157	2.0	1,217	5.2
Chicopee	56,632	57,200	1.0	56,386	-1.4	55,788	-1.1
Cummington	785	945	20.4	1,138	20.4	1,401	23.1
East Longmeadow	13,367	13,726	2.7	13,222	-3.7	12,603	-4.7
Easthampton	15,537	15,838	1.9	15,569	-1.7	15,178	-2.5
Goshen	830	1,071	29.0	1,290	20.5	1,550	20.1
Granby	5,565	5,500	-1.2	5,158	-6.2	4,733	-8.2
Granville	1,403	1,594	13.6	1,759	10.4	1,906	8.3
Hadley	4,231	4,202	-0.7	4,033	-4.0	3,853	-4.5
Hampden	4,709	4,775	1.4	4,585	-4.0	4,220	-8.0
Hatfield	3,184	3,245	1.9	3,166	-2.4	3,065	-3.2
Holland	2,185	2,912	33.3	3,732	28.2	4,841	29.7
Holyoke	43,704	43,310	-0.9	42,601	-1.6	43,112	1.2
Huntington	1,987	2,140	7.7	2,209	3.2	2,286	3.5
Longmeadow	15,467	15,092	-2.4	14,036	-7.0	12,638	-10.0
Ludlow	18,820	19,235	2.2	18,729	-2.6	17,963	-4.1
Middlefield	392	408	4.1	441	8.0	447	1.3
Monson	7,776	7,974	2.5	7,816	-2.0	7,603	-2.7
Montgomery	759	955	25.8	1,144	19.8	1,324	15.8
Northampton	29,289	28,529	-2.6	27,632	-3.1	26,211	-5.1
Palmer	12,054	12,358	2.5	12,280	-0.6	12,304	0.2
Pelham	1,373	1,661	21.0	1,894	14.1	2,157	13.9
Plainfield	571	814	42.5	1,147	40.9	1,508	31.5
Russell	1,594	1,659	4.1	1,656	-0.2	1,619	-2.2
South Hadley	16,685	16,507	-1.1	16,223	-1.7	15,549	-4.2
Southampton	4,478	4,995	11.5	5,279	5.7	5,440	3.0
Southwick	7,667	7,868	2.6	7,705	-2.1	7,399	-4.0
Springfield	156,983	158,102	0.7	158,668	0.4	160,914	1.4
Tolland	289	394	36.4	504	27.7	643	27.7
Wales	1,566	2,081	32.9	2,602	25.1	3,256	25.1
Ware	9,808	10,859	10.7	11,632	7.1	12,729	9.4
West Springfield	27,537	27,063	-1.7	25,759	-4.8	24,365	-5.4
Westfield	38,372	40,669	6.0	41,780	2.7	42,648	2.1
Westhampton	1,327	1,619	22.0	1,864	15.1	2,139	14.8
Wilbraham	12,635	13,177	4.3	12,822	-2.7	12,145	-5.3
Williamsburg	2,515	2,628	4.5	2,656	1.0	2,657	0.1
Worthington	1,156	1,377	19.2	1,591	15.5	1,882	18.3
Pioneer Valley Region	**602,878**	**618,827**	**452.5**	**623,293**	**277.7**	**630,758**	**250.9**
Massachusetts	**6,016,425**	**6,167,331**	**2.5**	**6,146,911**	**-0.3**	**6,082,117**	**-1.1**
United States	**248,709,873**	**268,365,107**	**7.9**	**281,847,571**	**5.0**	**294,307,670**	**4.4**

Source: PVPC Populaton Projections, 2/92

popch90.xls

Figure 5 – PROJECTED POPULATION OF THE PIONEER VALLEY REGION

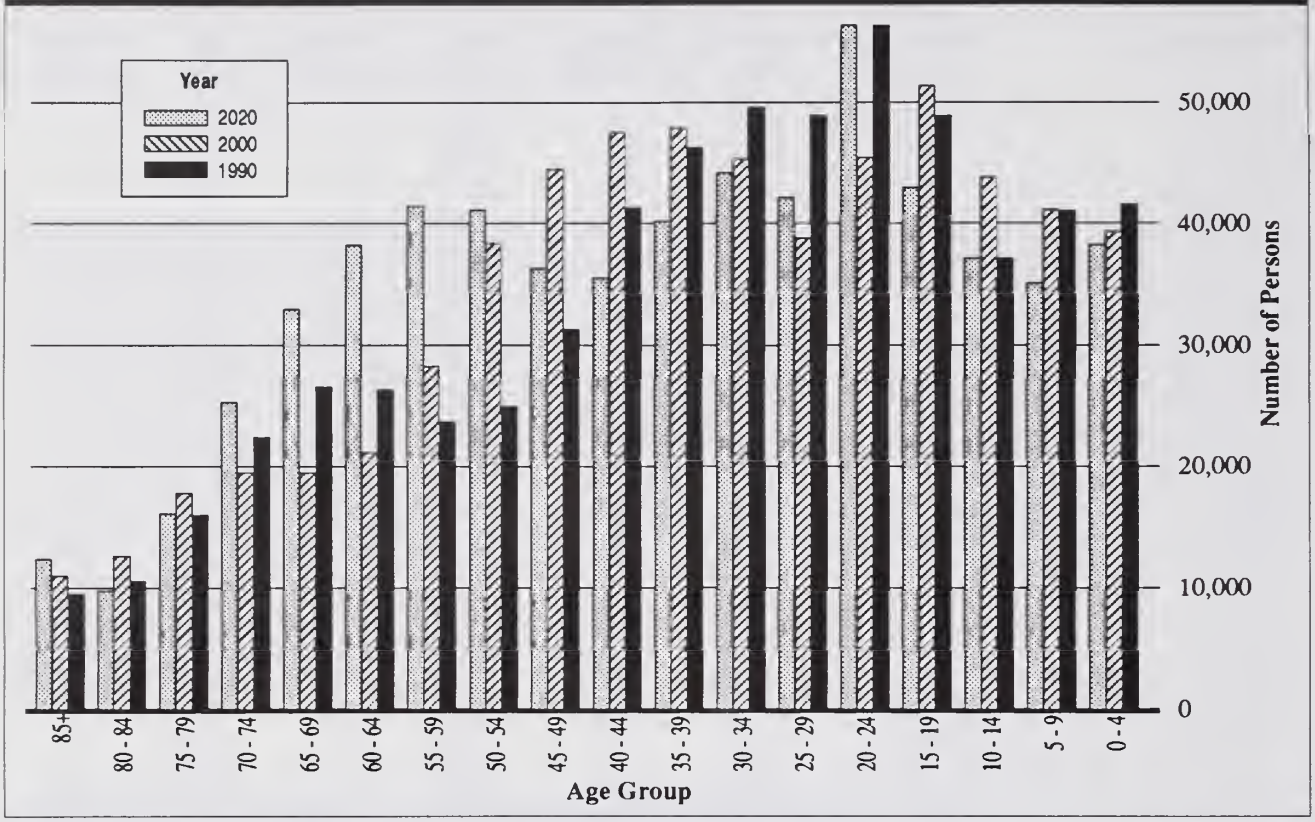


Table 8 – PROJECTED POPLULATION OF THE PIONEER VALLEY REGION

Age Group	Census Population 1970	Census Population 1980	Census Population 1990	Projected Population 2000	Projected Population 2010	Projected Population 2020
00 - 04	45,976	34,677	41,678	39,393	34,813	38,180
05 - 09	54,241	38,210	41,104	41,196	34,610	35,477
10 - 14	56,587	45,458	37,205	44,344	42,206	37,367
15 - 19	59,288	60,706	48,572	51,971	0,860	43,038
20 - 24	52,811	62,075	56,720	45,957	55,944	56,649
25 - 29	36,103	47,126	49,305	39,328	41,939	42,476
30 - 34	28,433	42,665	49,822	45,912	37,032	44,738
35 - 39	29,317	32,740	46,377	47,868	38,169	40,627
40 - 44	33,446	26,301	41,281	47,881	44,407	35,730
45 - 49	36,397	26,838	31,496	44,730	46,142	36,806
50 - 54	34,657	30,789	24,628	38,905	45,118	41,882
55 - 59	29,221	32,948	24,112	28,624	40,702	41,962
60 - 64	24,451	29,720	26,144	21,117	33,440	38,918
65 - 69	19,704	23,726	26,449	19,520	23,293	33,255
70 - 74	16,876	17,958	22,315	19,703	15,984	25,344
75 - 79	12,954	13,345	16,137	18,161	13,498	16,181
80 - 84	7,779	8,946	10,431	13,097	11,663	9,553
85+	4,790	7,602	9,102	11,121	13,472	12,575
Total	**583,031**	**581,830**	**602,878**	**618,827**	**623,293**	**630,758**

Source:Pioneer Valley Planning Commission Population Projections 2/92